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NOTES ON THE TAXONOMY OF THE BIRDS OF
MARYLAND AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PART II-PASSERIFORMES

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INTRODUCTION

Since the publication of the A.O.U. Check-list (1957), a number of new distributional records and range extensions of subspecies have been found which affect the status of birds on the Maryland list (Hampe and Kolb, 1947). The purpose of this paper is to point out these additions and changes and to clarify some of the distributional problems relating to geographical variation in the birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

This study is based upon a review of the literature and an examination of specimens in the U. S. National Museum, including over 500 specimens collected between 1946 and 1956 as part of a survey of Maryland birds conducted by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Many of these specimens were used to verify distributional records of species which were later incorporated into a published account (Stewart and Robbins, 1958), but they were not treated subspecifically in that publication.

In this paper, subspecies which are not recognized in the A.O.U. Check-list are enclosed in brackets. Those races which have been described since 1957 are marked with an asterisk. The non-passerines have been considered in an earlier account (Bond, 1957).

I would like to express my thanks for important suggestions and criticisms to Dr. Lester Short, Jr., of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Family TYRANNIDAE

[*Empidonax traillii campestris* Aldrich], Traill's Flycatcher

The breeding range of *E. t. campestris* extends across the Northern Great Plains from northern Alberta southeastward to western New York State, and south into the Interior Lowlands to central-eastern Arkansas.

Two specimens of this subspecies have been collected in our area during migration. These are: Laurel, 16 May 1888, and District of Columbia, 20 August 1896.

Family CORVIDAE

Cyanocitta cristata (Linnaeus), Blue Jay

Specimens from Garrett County are referable to the northern form *Cyanocitta cristata bromia* Oberholser in size and color, but birds from the Fall Line and Coastal Plain are quite variable in color and have smaller measurements. They undoubtedly represent populations intermediate in character between *C. c. bromia* and the southern subspecies *C. c. cristata* (Linnaeus). Breeding specimens examined: Finzel, 1; Grantsville, 1; Bittering, 1; Laurel, 2; Marshall Hall, 1; Upper Marlboro, 1; District of Columbia, 6. Numerous winter specimens taken in Maryland are predominantly of the northern subspecies.

**Cyanocitta cristata burleighi* Bond, Blue Jay

A rather uncommon straggler from Newfoundland (Bond, 1962). Specimen records are as follows: Takoma Park, 18 October 1899; Sandy Spring, 1 February 1891; near D. C., 26 October 1918; Laurel, 26 September 1889.

Family CETHIIDAE

Certhia familiaris nigrescens Burleigh, Brown Creeper

There are three records of this Appalachian subspecies taken in the District of Columbia: 28 October 1880; 6 February 1935; 27 March 1939.

Family TROGLODYTIDAE

[*Troglodytes troglodytes aquilonarius* Burleigh and Peters],
Winter Wren

This pale, well-marked subspecies from Newfoundland is represented in the collection by a specimen at Mt. Querrock, Smithburg, 29 November 1949.

Troglodytes troglodytes pullus (Burleigh), Winter Wren

Migrants of this Appalachian subspecies have been taken from the following localities: Frederick Co., Catocin Creek, between Jefferson and Point of Rocks, 11 November 1949; Prince Georges County, Oxon Hill, 11 October 1929.

Telmatodytes palustris (Wilson), Long-billed Marsh Wren

Birds breeding in the marshes around Chincoteague Bay and Ocean City are closest in coloration to the southeastern coastal subspecies *waynei* Dingle and Sprunt. Breeding specimens from the Washington, D. C. area are intermediate between *waynei* and the inland subspecies *dissaepus* Bangs. Specimens collected during the migration season over many years indicate that both *T. p. palustris* (Wilson) and *T. p. dissaeptus* occur here as transients. Breeding specimens examined: Ocean City, 4 and 27 July 1947; Chincoteague Bay (5 mi. southeast of Snow Hill), 30 May 1922. District of Columbia area: 23 breeding specimens; 41 migrants.

Family TURDIDAE

Hylocichla guttata crymophila Burleigh and Peters, Hermit Thrush

This migrant from Newfoundland is represented by three specimens from our area: District of Columbia, 8 February 1948; Pocomoke Swamp, 28 December 1949; Elliott Island, December, 1947.

[*Hylocichla ustulata almae* Oberholser], Swainson's Thrush

One specimen of this western subspecies (see Bond, 1963) was collected at Ocean City, 10 September 1963.

Family LANIIDAE

Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus Linnaeus, Loggerhead Shrike

Northward wanderings of this southern subspecies are indicated by the presence of two specimens collected at Largo, 27 November 1948, and Dickerson, 12 February 1950.

Family VIREONIDAE

Vireo solitarius solitarius \leq *alticola*, Solitary Vireo

Mensural characters of four specimens (wing, 75-78 mm; tail, 52-54-5 mm) from Garrett County show that the population from this area should best be treated as intermediate between the larger southern Appalachian subspecies, *V. s. alticola* Brewster, and the smaller northern subspecies *solitarius* (Wilson). Breeding specimens examined: Finzel, 17 and 19 June 1899; Kearney, 18 July 1899; Backbone Mountain, 18 June 1950.

Family PARULIDAE

Dendroica petechia ammicola Batchelder, Yellow Warbler

Two specimens of this subspecies from northern Alaska and trans-Canada have been taken as follows: Assateague Island, 20 September 1945, and Laurel, 9 September 1946.

Dendroica petechia rubiginosa (Pallas), Yellow Warbler

One specimen from the District of Columbia collected on 12 October 1910, has been identified by J. W. Aldrich as a representative of this subspecies from southern Alaska and western British Columbia.

Dendroica coronata hooveri McGregor, Myrtle Warbler

One specimen collected at Laurel, Patuxent Research Refuge, 8 February 1950, has the large measurements of this northwestern subspecies.

Seiurus aurocapillus fuvior Batchelder, Ovenbird

This Newfoundland subspecies has been recorded from the following localities in migration: Sligo Branch, 23 April 1905; Baltimore, 11 May 1923; District of Columbia, 12 September 1933.

Family ICTERIDAE

Euphagus carolinus nigrans Burleigh and Peters, Rusty Blackbird

One specimen of this Newfoundland subspecies was collected in the District of Columbia, 16 January 1961.

Family FRINGILLIDAE

Pinicola enucleator eschatosus Oberholser, Pine Grosbeak

The A.O.U. Check-list (1957) mentions Assateague Island as a Maryland locality for *Pinicola enucleator leucura* (Muller). I have examined this specimen, taken on 11 November 1945, and find that it is in reality a representative of the Newfoundland subspecies *P. e. eschatosus* Oberholser. There is also another specimen of *eschatosus* taken at Redhouse, Allegheny County, on 23 January 1952.

Passerculus sandwichensis labradorius Howe, Savannah Sparrow

The A.O.U. Check-list (1957) records one specimen of this subspecies collected at Ocean City. There are three others taken in the District of Columbia: 3 April 1861; 5 April 1899; and 14 February 1891.

Passerculus sandwichensis oblitus Peters and Griscom,
Savannah Sparrow

One specimen of this subspecies from central Canada was collected at Doub, Frederick County, 29 October 1949.

Passerella iliaca zaboria Oberholser, Fox Sparrow

The breeding range of this subspecies extends from Alaska east to Manitoba. Two specimens have been collected in our area during migration: Bladensburg, 21 November 1959, and Pocomoke Swamp, 28 December 1949.

Melospiza georgiana ericrypta Oberholser, Swamp Sparrow

This subspecies breeds in Garrett County. There are a number of

specimens in the collection taken in other parts of the State during migration: Laurel, Plummer's Island, Burnt Mills, Mills Island, Cornfield Harbor, and Baltimore County are examples of some of them.

Melospiza georgiana nigrescens Bond and Stewart, Swamp Sparrow

This subspecies breeds in the brackish marshes of the Eastern Shore from Vienna to the Delaware Bay. One specimen in streaked juvenal plumage was taken on the western shore one mile south of Hills Bridge on the Patuxent River, 9 August 1962.

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